

lively and active, and the mother complains of the difficulty of keeping it on the stretcher, then we allow the child to be up in a jacket. I agree with Dr. Hunkin that the lumbar spine is much easier to treat than the dorsal. Dr. Sherman has said rightly that we have not carried these cases along far enough as yet. The final results will have to show themselves 15—20 years hence. In reference to the position of the head of the femur against the ligament and front of the acetabulum versus a possible more stable position in the center of the acetabulum, I think the more important factor is the overstretching of the flexor and adductor muscles and when they are out of commission the head of the femur takes care of itself.

## SOCIETY REPORTS

### ALAMEDA COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association was held in the rooms of the association, 127 Telegraph avenue, Tuesday, May 16, 1911, at 8:30 p. m.

Vice-President W. A. Clark in the chair.

The program was given by the San Francisco Medical Society.

- I. Appendix Dyspepsia—Dr. Wm. Fitch Cheney.
- II. The Surgical Treatment of Uterine Prolapse—Dr. Harold Brunn.

The papers were exceedingly interesting and brought out a full and equally interesting discussion participated in by Drs. Emerson, Von Adelung, Hamlin, Crosby, Buteau, Adams, Makinson, Percy and Ewer.

PAULINE S. NUSBAUMER, Secretary.

### CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The California Academy of Medicine held a regular meeting on Tuesday evening, May 22, 1911. The following scientific program was given:

1. A Preliminary Note on the Relation Between Rat and Human Leprosy, Dr. L. S. Schmitt. Discussed by Drs. McCoy, Canney, Cooper, Schmitt.
2. Charcot Joints, Dr. Leo Eloesser. Discussed by Drs. Rusk, Ophuls and Eloesser.
3. Demonstration of X-Ray Plates, Dr. George L. Painter.

Refreshments were served at the end of the program.

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

The Physicians' Club of San Diego held its annual meeting on May 4th, in its rooms in the Timken Building. Substantial progress in membership and in acquisitions to the library were reported. The County Society now holds its meetings in the club rooms, and the two organizations are closely affiliated, membership in the County Society being the first requisite for membership in the club.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, W. A. Winship; vice-president, J. E. Jennison; secretary and treasurer, B. J. O'Neill; directors, V. G. Clark, I. D. Webster, F. Baker, R. Lorini and H. P. Newman.

On Thursday evening, May 18, the San Diego County Society and the Physicians' Club of San Diego entertained the medical officers of the Pacific fleet and of the troops now stationed here at an informal smoker at the University Club.

The guests were welcomed in short speeches by Dr. I. D. Webster for the Medical Society and Dr. F. R. Burnham for the Physicians' Club. Dr. Norton, fleet surgeon, responded, on behalf of the visitors. Dr. T. L. Magee gave a short history of the founding and early days of the County Society. Various other short talks were given, after which the company adjourned to the dining-room.

Mayor Wadborn, of San Diego, has recently appointed the following physicians, all members of the San Diego County Medical Society, to fill vacancies on the City Board of Health: Dr. H. C. Loose, Dr. H. M. Wegeforth and Dr. B. J. O'Neill.

B. J. O'NEILL, M. D., Secretary.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Practical Medicine Series, Vol. II, General Surgery.** Edited by John B. Murphy. Series 1911. Chicago, The Year Book Publishers. Linen. Price \$2.00.

An excellent compend of the year's progress in surgery. It may be heartily recommended to the general practitioner as a good succinct exposition of the present status of the surgical questions of the day, and to the surgeon as a ready manual of reference to the most important recent literature—one that will often save him a search among bulkier literary indices. The remarks and the expressions of personal opinion that the editor, J. B. Murphy, has appended to many of the articles, greatly enhance the value of the book.

L. E.

**Principles of Therapeutics.** By A. Manquat. Translated by M. Simbad Gabriel, M. D. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1910.

The author lays down principles to guide the young physician in the right direction. His ideals are the highest; he pleads at length for scientific therapeutics and decries the use of therapeutic measures which are based on imaginative theories. "When scientific therapeutics does not know . . . it says so; when it affirms, it proves: when it ventures a hypothesis, it makes reservations." A classification of therapeutic measures, based upon the objects to be attained, is discussed in one chapter. The groups he suggests are (1) therapeutics of disease, which includes specifics, anti-infectious (non-specific) medicines, antiseptics, antiparasitics, antidotes and eliminators; (2) organic and functional therapeutics; (3) symptomatic therapeutics; (4) reparative therapeutics. He makes the distinction between utilizable action and toxic action of drugs. That this is a practical division for the study of therapeutic agents is readily shown, as is also the difficulty in determining the influence such toxic and utilizable doses bear on the morbid organism.

In chapters devoted to "doses and medical opportunity," Manquat argues for the use of the smallest efficacious dose. "Except specific medicines, which require fairly large doses, there is advantage in the majority of cases, in prescribing doses considerably smaller than those usually recommended." His illustrations of the application of these principles are excellent. To read these chapters and that entitled "Primum Non Nocere," is to become conscious of the many problems which beset the practitioner in managing every case. Emphasis is placed on the necessity of individualization of treatment, as influenced by (a) the patient, (b) the organs and functional activities, (c) the nature of the disease, and (d) such reactions as tolerance and habituation. The influence of environment is discussed in its many aspects, not only are effects of temperature, light, climate, season and ventilation taken up, but some excellent advice is given in the subject of consultations and change of physicians. In summarizing the chapter on method in therapeutics, he says: "Therapeutic facts are extremely complex and difficult to establish. . . ." The appreciation of the influence of a therapeutic measure is always derived from the idea that is formed of the diagnosis. In clinical observations the tendency to confuse facts, interpretations and opinions, is to be guarded against. Facts alone have scientific value. Numbers add less to the value of conclusions than does precision. Good statistics imply several conditions, the most important of which is the identity of the elements composing them. In the final chapter appears a list of drugs and other therapeutic measures classified according to his scheme. The author has written with force, a very readable book; one worth any physician's time. Its value is enhanced by the use of good paper, clear type and a most satisfactory arrangement.

P. C.